

at least two insulator posts, wherein the source, the drain, the threshold adjustment channel, and the gate insulating layer are located substantially between the at least two insulator posts;

A1
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a mass; and

a spring substantially supporting the mass above the substrate layer, wherein the spring is attached to each of the at least two insulator posts, and wherein the contactless acceleration switch system turns on when a threshold acceleration value is detected.

A2
15. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein an air gap is located substantially between the mass and the substrate layer when an acceleration level is substantially below the threshold acceleration value.

16. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the mass moves substantially towards the substrate layer when the threshold acceleration value is detected.

A3
19. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the source and the drain act as electrodes providing an electrical signal that indicates that the threshold acceleration value is detected.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed February 14, 2003, the Examiner (i) rejected claims 1-5 and 7-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e); (ii) rejected claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b); and (iii) rejected claims 6 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). To the extent the Examiner relies on common knowledge in the art for the § 103(a) rejections, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to provide references supporting his position. (See M.P.E.P. § 2144.03.)